

PATENT APPLICATION

Docket No. 4164-177

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of: John F. ACRES

Serial No. 09/832,425

Examiner: Not yet assigned

Filed: April 10, 2001

Group Art Unit: 3713

For: **METHOD FOR PROVIDING INCENTIVE TO PLAY GAMING DEVICES  
CONNECTED BY A NETWORK TO A HOST COMPUTER**

Date: December 17, 2001

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

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DEC 18 2001  
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3100

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Prior to examination of the above-referenced patent application, please amend the application as follows.

✓ Please cancel claims 1-20.

Please add the following new claims 28-54:

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28. (New) A method for providing incentive to play gaming devices connected by a network to a host computer comprising:

associating each gaming device with an input device for receiving player identification;

associating unique player identification with a gaming device player

creating a player account accessible by the host computer;

associating the unique player identification with the player account;

applying a promotional credit to the player's account;

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